

Instructions for Reviewers

Thank you for agreeing to review the enclosed volume for the *PLANT SCIENCE BULLETIN*. The book is yours in return for providing the review. Please refer to the following paragraphs when writing your review.

Importance of reviews: In keeping with the continued efforts to maintain the quality of content in the *PLANT SCIENCE BULLETIN*, your in-depth attention to the virtues and vices of this book will be very much appreciated. *PLANT SCIENCE BULLETIN* seeks to publish scholarly reviews of a caliber similar to those in journals such as *EVOLUTION*. Because copies of reviews are sent to publishers, reviews can influence the quality of future publications with thorough and thoughtful commentary.

Content/Structure of reviews: A review should not be merely a "book report" on the contents of this volume, although this information should be conveyed, concisely. Continuous repetition of phrases such as "chapter x by so-and-so contains..." will tend to be difficult for your readers. Among other things, a review may provide readers with advice about whether to purchase a book with an intriguing title, but whose contents may not be judged by the title alone.

It is fine to point out both positive and negative aspects of the book. Inform your readers whether the book is a good one or not: does it live up to its title, does it reach the goals set in the preface, does it contain turgid or delightful prose? If all reviews were completely positive, there would be little point in having them; even favorable reviews can contain constructive criticism. Likewise, overly critical remarks should be sidestepped, and *ad hominem* attacks avoided altogether. The review should be a balanced evaluation in well-written English that is neither inappropriately concise nor overly verbose. A review may be quite short for books warranting only a brief notice (a paragraph or two, fewer than 500 words), or longer (up to 1,500 words, or *exceptionally*, 2,000 words), depending on the length and complexity of the book. If you need more guidance than this note provides, see "A Strategy for Reviewing Books for Journals" in the *PLANT SCIENCE BULLETIN*, vol. 40, no. 3, for a thorough consideration of the review process.

Submitting your review: Reviews are welcome in almost any format (via e-mail, computer disk, or typed copy faxed or mailed). E-mail is easiest and fastest, since your review will not have to be retyped. This is *especially* important for submissions near the deadline; typed manuscripts may be delayed until the following issue of *PSB*.

Notes on electronic format: At present, the *PSB* editorial office uses Pagemaker 7.0 and WordPerfect 11.0 or Word 2003 on a PC platform. The simplest e-mail submission is simply as text in the e-mail itself. If your review is rich in italics and other special formatting, you may attach a word-processing file to your e-mail. While we can translate most documents, whether Mac or DOS-formatted, MS Word is most convenient. If you are uncertain, contact the editor at <sundberm@emporia.edu> for assistance.

Confirmation of deadline: Please complete the enclosed card confirming that you will have the review to us by the due date indicated in our previous communication. Please let us know if that date presents any difficulty for you finishing your review. Our recurring deadlines are January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.